

1      **ABSTRACT**

2      Context aware computing systems and methods are described. In one  
3      described embodiment, devices and methods are provided that are context-aware  
4      (in one example—location-aware) in that they provide for the application and  
5      enforcement of various policies as a function of context. Specifically, various  
6      computing devices, through the described methodologies and structures, are able  
7      to automatically determine their context. Once context is determined, a collection  
8      of policies can be evaluated to provide a resultant set of policies that apply to the  
9      given context. The resultant set of policies are then enforced, typically via the  
10     device's operating system. Policy enforcement can involve promulgating new  
11     settings or state to applications that are executing on or off the device.  
12     Advantageously, the devices and methodologies can adapt the resultant set of  
13     policies as the device's context changes so that the policies can be dynamically  
14     determined and enforced automatically as the device's context changes.